

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJ: FLEXIBILITY STUDY

REF: A. STATE 258138 DTG 0310049Z OCT 75

B. USNATO 5593 DTG 141940Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE ALERTS WASHINGTON THAT DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC) PERM REPS MAY CONSIDER SACEUR'S FLEXIBILITY REPORT AS EARLY AS MID-NOVEMBER. AT THAT TIME, WE PROPOSE TO ASK THAT PERM REPS INVITE MINISTERS DURING THE DECEMBER DPC MEETING TO CALL FOR: A) PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION BY NATIONS AND APPROPRIATE NATO ORGANIZATIONS OF SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS IN STUDY; B) INCLUSION OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS IN FORCE PROPOSALS GENERATED BY NATO MILITARY AUTHORITEIS (NMA'S); AND C) EXPLICIT CONVERGENCE OF REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, DURING 1976 SPRING REVIEW ACTIVITIES. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON VIEWS CONFIDENTIAL

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BY NOV 16. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS) NOW IS REVIEWING SACEUR'S FINAL REPORT OF THE STUDY ON FLEXIBILITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION

(POUCHED TO WASHINGTON, CONTROL NUMBER 5319). WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) IS ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEALING WITH REPORT TO SYG LUNS BY MID-NOVEMBER.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE MC WILL RECOMMEND. IN ITS PRESENT FORM, FLEXIBILITY REPORT CONTAINS 84 NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTING DEFICIENCIES IN THE FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL, GROUND FORCES, AIR FORCES, LOGISTICS, STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY AND ACE/AFCENT EXERCISE PROGRAMS. WE HAVE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS THAT UK AND FRG MAY SEEK TO DELAY MC ENDORSEMENT OF AT LEAST SOME RECOMMENDATIONS PENDING FURTHER STUDY.

3. REGARDLESS OF WHAT FORM THE MC RECOMMENDATIONS TAKE, WE EXPECT THAT DPC PERM REPS WILL CONSIDER FLEXIBILITY REPORT SHORTLY AFTER MID-NOVEMBER. AS INSTRUCTED IN REF A, WE WILL REQUEST THAT PERM REPS FORWARD THE FLEXIBILITY REPORT AND MC VIEWS TO DPC MINISTERS WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT MINISTERS INVITE (A) COUNTRIES AND APPROPRIATE NATO ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS AND (B) NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO INCLUDE LONGER-TERM ACTIONS IN FORCE PROPOSALS.

4. BASED ON OUR PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS, THE FLEXIBILITY REPORT INCLUDES VALUABLE RECOMMENDATIONS SUITABLE FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT ARE LOW COST AND CONCERN SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE MEASURES. IN SOME CASES, THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUFFICIENTLY EXPLICIT FOR NATIONAL CAPITALS TO ACT NOW. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT CHANCES FOR NATIONS IMPLEMENTING MANY RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE IMPROVED BY A MORE EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF "WHICH NATION SHOULD DO WHAT."

5. THE US PROPOSAL FOR EXPANDED SPRING REVIEW PROCEDURES (REF B) IS EXPRESSLY INTENDED TO REFINE AND HIGHLIGHT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN NATO SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO THE ACTIONS OUTLINED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, WE PROPOSE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE SPRING 1976 "PILOT" REGIONAL MEETING FOR AFCENT ADDRESS THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FLEXIBILITY REPORT WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM FURTHER REFINEMENT AND EXPOSURE. STREATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

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